

WWF wins the battle for Vicious

Chad

4/17/91

The on-again, off-again relationship between Sid Vicious and World Championship Wrestling appears to be off again, this time permanently.

Vicious, the muscular 6-foot-8, 300-pounder with Frankenstein-like facial features, billed to be from "anywhere he darn well pleases," changed his mind Wednesday after apparently agreeing to terms with WCW for a new contract the previous week.

Vicious originally asked to renegotiate his current \$250,000 per-year contract, which expires Sept. 1, or he would leave at the end of May. He then planned to sit out the remainder of the contract and start with the World Wrestling Federation when his current contract expires.

After some intense negotiations, it appeared Vicious and WCW Executive Vice President Jim Herd had reached an oral agreement for a figure believed to be in excess of \$350,000. But it appears a recruiting effort by the WWF won out.

It has been widely speculated within the industry this past week that the deciding aspect was the opportunity that Vicious would get to participate in the main event at Wrestlemania VIII next March at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis against Hulk Hogan.

The loss of Vicious is a significant blow to WCW. The Atlanta-based company had just started building a "Battle of the Giants" feud between Vicious and 7-6½, 435-pound El Gigante. The first singles match between the two was scheduled for the "SuperBrawl" pay-per-view show May 19 in St. Petersburg, and rematches were planned throughout the summer.

Vicious has agreed to remain with WCW through the May 19 show. As was his original plan, he will then sit out the summer and start with the WWF in the fall. For marketing reasons, the WWF may give him a new ring name, but it's doubtful they'll change many aspects of his ring character.



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BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

FC: Ultimate Warrior vs. Sgt. Slaughter and a Battle Royal featuring Hulk Hogan will headline the NBC Saturday Night Main Event special April 27. . . . Since WCW is owned by Ted Turner, who also owns marketing rights to many movie classics, the company is going to introduce classic movie characters on its May 19 pay-per-view show. Debuting will be Merlin the Wizard (Kevin Sullivan) and Oz (Kevin Nash). . . . The WWF will tour the United Kingdom April 24-May 2. Every show on the tour was sold out months in advance. . . . WCW is negotiating to bring in several of the top names from Japan, including Jushin (Thunder) Liger, The Great Muta, Hiroshi Hase and Kensuke Sasaki this summer. Liger is generally considered the most spectacular wrestler on the planet.